

Remarks

Claims 1-8 currently are pending in the present application and stand rejected. The Office has acknowledged receipt of the drawings filed June 23, 2003, however these drawings have been neither accepted nor objected to by the Examiner. Applicants request acceptance of these drawings with the next Action.

Claims 1-8 are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over White et al. in view of Patko et al. and Ou-Yang et al. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended for the sake of clarity, and to incorporate the features of claim 6. Claim 6 thus is deleted as redundant. The Office has cited White et al. Figure 7 and the related text at column 7, lines 50-65 as disclosing the features of claim 6. Applicants would like to point out that the cited Figure 7 shows a circuit diagram of sense amp 50 which includes an operational amplifier exhibiting its normal gain characteristic and enables measurements 82, 84, etc. to be taken. The diagram in Figure 7 illustrates only a gain switch. The amplifier of the claims, however, is gain-adjustable, such that the processor reasonably amplifies the signal of the working electrode via gain adjustments to increase resolution. The White et al. patent fails to teach or suggest the feature of a gain adjustable amplifier which now is recited in claims 1 and 8. The secondary references, Patko et al. and Ou-Yang et al., do not make up for the deficiency in the disclosures of White et al. with respect to this feature. Thus, the combination of references cited by the Office lack a feature recited by the claims and thus do not teach or suggest each and every claim limitation as required to make out a prima facie case of obviousness. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.


The Office has objected to informalities in claims 1 and 8. Applicants have amended the claims to change "detective" to --detection-- as requested in the Office Action, and to change "transferring" to --transfers--. In addition, claim 8 has been amended to change "Wherein" to --wherein-- to correct a typographical error. Further changes are made to improve readability. Applicants request entry of these claim amendments and submit that no new matter is added thereby. Applicants also request the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Applicants have made amendments to the specification herein which are consistent with the claim amendments. The phrase "during detection" has been deleted in paragraphs 5, 10 and 28 to clarify the function of "a plurality of pluggable information memories" of claim 1. According to the exemplary disclosure at paragraph 30 of the specification, a pluggable information memory 14 is for storing detection parameters which are provided for the use of a multi-functional signal analysis processor to calculate the concentration of a corresponding selected analyte. Further, the specification states, beginning at paragraph 32, second sentence, that data stored in the pluggable information memory 14 can be retrieved and then stored in erasable programmable read/write memory 21. In this connection, the phrase "during detection" may lead to confusion and thus is deleted.

Applicants also have deleted the phrase "when an electrochemical reaction occurs," for the same reasons, at paragraph 28 and amended the paragraph to correct errors in the paragraph by changing "detective" to --detection-- and "an" to --a--. Applicants request entry of these amendments and submit that no new matter is added thereby.

The abstract has been amended likewise for consistency. As requested, Applicants are submitting a new abstract on a separate page and request its entry into the application.

Applicants now respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended and allowance of the application.

| RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, | | | | | |
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